



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

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## **CHAFEE MEETS WITH PRESIDENT BUSH TO DISCUSS LINE ITEM VETO**

*One of Five Senators Invited to the White House to Discuss this Initiative*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – This morning, **U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)** was invited by President George W. Bush to the White House for a discussion on the President's line-item veto proposal, of which Chafee is an original cosponsor. The "Line Item Rescission Act of 2006," is a Constitutionally sound proposal giving the president the authority to strip nonessential spending out of a bill, and send the disputed spending items back to Congress for approval. Chafee was one of five Senators attending the meeting with President Bush.

"I am grateful to President Bush for inviting me to the White House to discuss this fiscally responsible proposal," Senator Chafee said following the meeting. "The meeting was very productive, and I am pleased that the President took time to reach out and ask me and other Senators for our views on ways to reduce wasteful spending and bring down our nation's deficit. As a former mayor, I shared my views of the benefits of this measure with the President and other senators who previously served in executive positions. The line item veto gives the executive the ability to strike nonessential spending measures without vetoing large and important appropriations bills in their entirety. It also can have the effect of making those in the legislative branch act more cautiously, as they know that frivolous spending could be met with a veto by the president. I look forward to working with President Bush and leaders in Congress to push this legislation towards enactment."

"Again, I am heartened to see this call for fiscal responsibility from President Bush. I have joined as a cosponsor of this legislation because it will be impossible for us to reduce our national debt and balance the federal budget unless we curb wasteful spending. I have also been an advocate for the pay-as-you-go budget rule, which would require Congress to pay for any new spending or tax cuts, and will continue to press for its adoption."

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I have been a supporter of this concept since my experience as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1986, when I worked in favor of giving Rhode Island's Governor line item veto authority.

Since chronic deficits add to the burden of debt we are bequeathing to future generations, Congressional spending must be reigned in, and I am pleased to promote both of these tools to improve spending discipline in Washington.”

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